

❖ ANNUAL REPORT ❖

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF THE

SEDCFIELD UNION,

for the YEAR ENDED

❖ DECEMBER, 31st., 1897. ❖



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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE SEDFIELD UNION.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMAN,

It is again my pleasing duty to lay before you my twentieth Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary condition of the Sedgfield Rural District for the year ended December 31st., 1897.

The Mortality exclusive of the 167 deaths of Inmates of the Durham County Lunatic Asylum, amounts to 313, of whom 147 were males, and 166 females.

The Births registered during the year were 731, and of this number 387 were males, and 344 females.

The Vital Statistics are calculated on an estimated population of 18,641, the Inmates of the County Asylum being deducted, and due allowance made for the incorporation of Low Spennymoor with the Spennymoor Urban District.

The Rate of Mortality is 16.7 per thousand, being with one exception the lowest death-rate during the twenty years that I have acted as your Medical Officer of Health. It may not be uninteresting to note the great disparity in the rate of mortality that exists between the Colliery and Agricultural Divisions of the Sanitary District. The rate in the Sedgfield and Bishopton Medical Districts (Agricultural) is 10.5 per 1000, whilst that of Ferryhill, Cornforth, and Trimdon Medical Districts where the Industrial pursuits are chiefly Limestone and Coal mining, it amounts to 17.8 per thousand.

The Birth Rate amounts to 39.3, which is somewhat below the average of former years.

The Infant Mortality is 110, and the death rate 150 per thousand births, which is attributed to the following causes, viz :—Impaired Viability due to Premature Birth, Protracted and Difficult Labour, and other Congenital Conditions, 47 ; Cerebral Affections, 22 ; Gastric and Intestinal Derangements, 21 ; Pulmonary Diseases, 11 ; Zymotic Diseases, 4 ; Injuries, 1 ; Unclassified, 4.

Longevity. Forty-eight persons reached the age of 70 years, or 2.5 per thousand per annum, 37 being septuagenarians and 11 octogenarians.

The Zymotic Class of Diseases still continues to prevail throughout the District, and contributes largely to its mortality 41 deaths having occurred, with a death-rate of 2.1 per thousand.

The Number of Notifications received amount to 279 and include 159 cases of Scarlatina, 4 of Diphtheria, 2 of Croup, 28 of Typhoid Fever, 38 of continued Fever, 1 of Puerperal Fever, and 47 of Erysipelas ; whilst 21 of those had a fatal termination, 6 resulting from Scarlatina, 1 from Diphtheria, 9 from Enteric Fever, 3 from Continued Fever, 1 from Puerperal Fever, and 1 from Erysipelas. There were also 20 deaths from Zymotic Diseases not included in the Schedule of the Notification Act, viz :—Measles 2, Whooping Cough 3, Diarrhœa 8, Rheumatic Fever 3, and Influenza 4.

Scarlatina has been exceedingly prevalent during the year and of the 159 cases notified, 87 occurred in the Trimdon Division, 55 in Cornforth, 13 in Ferryhill, and 4 in Sedgefield.

Of the 6 deaths resulting from this cause, 5 occurred at Trimdon, and one at Cornforth.

An outbreak occurred at the Hardwick Garden House, Sedgefield, from an unknown source but by isolation its further extension was arrested.

Diphtheria. Of the four cases notified, 2 occurred at Cornforth, 1 at Ferryhill, and 1 at Trimdon. One case terminated fatally at Cornforth.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever, the incidence of which was most marked at the Trimdon Colliery villages, where 23 cases occurred. Four cases also occurred at Metal Bridge, in the Ferryhill Division. Eight cases at Trimdon, and one case at the County Asylum had a fatal termination.

Continued Fever also prevailed chiefly at the Trimdon Colliery villages. Of the 38 cases notified, 29 occurred at that place, from which no death resulted, whilst 9 cases occurred at Cornforth, 3 of which terminated fatally. The continued prevalence of Enteric and Continued Fever at Trimdon and West Cornforth can only be attributed to over-crowding, and the unsanitary surroundings.

Measles has been exceedingly prevalent throughout the District during the year, the cases were however of a mild type and only 2 deaths resulted.

Owing to an out-break of this disease at Bradbury I deemed it necessary to close the Bradbury and Mordon School.

Whooping Cough has been less prevalent with a corresponding decrease in the mortality, three deaths having resulted from this cause and its complications.

The disease was imported into Sedgefield from the City of Durham, and affected 3 families before it came under my observation, when by close isolation its further spread was arrested.

Influenza is credited with being the cause of 4 deaths. The cases which have come under my observation were not of a typical character, and the disease does not appear to have assumed an epidemic form.

Phthisis Pulmonalis is somewhat below the average of former years, 23 deaths being attributed to this cause, 5 of which occurred in the Sedgefield Division, 7 in Ferryhill, 4 in Cornforth, 6 in Trimdon, and 1 in the Union Workhouse.

Pulmonary Diseases have been the cause of 36 deaths, with a death-rate of 1.9 per thousand, which is the lowest within my experience, to record, and which may be attributed to the exceptionally mild and genial weather, which we have enjoyed during the greater part of the year.

The General Sanitation of the District is considerably improved by the Council becoming invested with the requisite powers by Order of the Local Government Board for the Scavenging of Sedgefield, Cornforth, Ferryhill, and Chilton townships. Many of the old midden privies have been abolished, and privy ashpits or pan-closets substituted, and I would strongly advise an extension of this method of removal.

The Council having adopted Part III of the Public Health Act (Amendment Act), 1890, the draft bye-laws of which are now in the hands of the Local Government Board, and may shortly be expected to come into operation, will enable the Council to effect a great improvement in the sanitary condition of the District.

The number of statutory notices served for the removal of nuisances amount to 216, whilst 3,957 nuisances have been abated.

Legal Proceedings were taken against the owners of 310 houses under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and Closing Orders made, whilst Orders were also obtained against the owners of 6 houses under the Nuisance Clauses of the Public Health Act, 1875. Sewer extensions during the year, amount to 3,100 yards, viz :—in the Ferryhill township, 1650 yards; in Cornforth township, 1,400 yards; in Trimdon township, 650 yards, and in Chilton township, 400 yards. House Drainage has also been materially improved throughout the District.

Sewage Disposal Works. At Ferryhill village half an acre of land has been leased, and purification works erected thereon in the shape of a Cosham's patent circular tank capable of treating 10000 gallons of sewage daily, to which aluminoferric is added, and the effluent passed over the irrigation area.

At East Howle a Cosham's patent tank has been erected capable of dealing with 15,000 gallons daily, and treated in a similar manner as Ferryhill, with the effluent passing over an acre of irrigation area.

At both these places the works are complete, and have been in operation for some months past, and the process seems admirably adapted to your district. The effluent from both works, when passed into the stream, is perfectly free from smell, clear and in my opinion harmless.

At West Cornforth Disposal Works, are in course of erection also upon the Cosham tank system, but in this case the tanks are rectangular in form, and capable of dealing with 50,000 gallons daily, the effluent from which will pass over an irrigation area, 3 acres in extent.

At Trimdon Grange and Trimdon Colliery a scheme of disposal works has been passed, also on Cosham's patent and with rectangular tanks to deal with 150,000 gallons daily, with an irrigation area of 3 acres. The land has been leased, and the contract let, so that at an early date these works will also be proceeded with.

Water Supply has been maintained in good condition, and several extensions made during the year.

The Common Lodging Houses have been regularly inspected, and found to be fairly well conducted; the average number of Lodgers frequenting them weekly amounted to 201.

The number of vagrants admitted to the Casual Wards of the Workhouse amounted to 3346, against 3879 the year previous.

Building Operations include 33 new houses erected, and 114 reconstructed, viz:—in the Trimdon Township 23 new houses have been erected, and 84 reconstructed; Cornforth Township, 6 new houses erected, and 24 reconstructed; Sedgefield Township, 3 new houses erected, and 4 reconstructed; Ferryhill Township, two houses reconstructed; and Chilton Township, 1 new house erected.

Cowsheds and Dairies have had their proper share of attention, and continue to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

In conclusion I beg to tender my grateful acknowledgements to the several medical gentlemen practising within the District for their great kindness and courtesy, and also to Mr. Snowdon your Surveyor, and his assistant, to whom I am greatly indebted for the assistance they have rendered in the execution of my duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

Geo. R. Sheraton,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*Sedgefield,
January 15th., 1898.*

Table of Deaths during the Years 1878 to 1897 inclusive, in the Rural Sanitary District of Sedgefield.

Year.	Estimated population.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.		Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.										DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.																			Deaths from other Diseases.					Rate per 1000 of Population.										
																FEVERS.										Total Zymotic Diseases.					Phthisis	Bronchitis Pleurisy Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Birth rate	Death rate.	Infant mortality rate per 1000 births.	Zymotic rate.	Phthisis rate.	Bronchitis Pleurisy Pneumonia rate.	Heart Disease rate.	Injuries rate.							
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-60	60-70	70-80	80 & upw.	Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea & Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Influenza.	Pulmonalis.	Pleurisy.	Pneumonia.														
1878	15660	410	412	822	178	177	355	108	93	16	20	58	23	26	10	1	...	28	...	...	...	20	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	8	15	1	...	...	80	23	41	10	14	187	52.4	22.7	131	5.1	1.4	2.6	0.6	0.8
1879	15882	341	295	636	132	136	268	84	28	15	18	43	31	37	11	1	...	9	1	3	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	1	...	24	23	34	17	11	159	40.1	16.2	132	1.5	1.4	2.1	1.0	0.6	
1880	16104	318	247	565	168	145	313	108	65	21	23	50	20	17	9	...	...	2	...	5	7	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	12	13	...	...	62	28	51	17	8	147	35.0	19.4	191	3.8	1.6	3.1	1.1	0.4	
1881	16326	310	357	667	143	159	302	92	40	18	25	66	25	27	8	1	...	17	1	4	...	4	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	12	...	...	...	53	34	36	15	12	152	43.3	18.7	137	3.2	2.1	2.2	0.9	0.7
1882	16332	320	315	635	226	153	379	97	51	29	50	85	30	23	12	2	...	12	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	13	21	1	...	...	59	29	34	18	84*	156	38.8	23.2	152	3.6	1.7	2.0	1.1	*5.0	
1883	16534	349	333	682	197	179	376	116	66	36	27	60	32	23	15	1	5	7	1	2	...	5	3	...	...	...	1	...	16	5	8	1	...	...	54	27	64	23	21	187	41.2	22.7	169	3.2	1.6	3.8	1.3	1.2		
1884	16836	360	327	687	182	136	318	105	47	26	15	67	21	30	6	1	14	1	2	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	3	...	15	6	19	1	...	...	71	31	38	23	15	140	41.3	18.8	152	4.2	1.8	2.3	1.3	0.8		
1885	17038	337	336	673	162	158	316	129	47	18	22	39	25	23	15	2	2	8	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	9	1	...	...	34	32	57	17	4	176	39.4	18.7	191	1.9	1.7	3.3	0.9	0.2			
1886	17238	340	369	709	158	161	319	108	68	20	19	42	23	22	14	3	...	6	1	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	13	8	3	...	...	40	27	56	15	9	172	46.3	18.5	152	2.3	1.5	3.2	0.8	0.5		
1887	17440	342	327	669	176	167	343	121	65	15	20	64	24	26	7	1	...	7	...	4	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	6	2	9	...	...	45	30	63	25	12	168	38.4	19.6	180	2.5	1.7	3.6	1.3	0.6			
1888	17642	344	357	701	164	141	305	94	47	24	15	60	30	21	12	2	...	10	5	4	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	7	...	...	30	28	40	17	12	178	39.7	17.3	134	1.7	1.5	2.2	0.9	0.6			
1889	17844	336	325	661	163	163	326	102	56	26	19	54	28	26	14	1	...	15	12	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	...	...	...	40	24	52	15	13	173	37.0	18.0	154	2.2	1.3	2.9	0.8	0.7			
1890	18046	348	344	692	189	176	365	114	72	18	12	73	27	31	15	3	...	7	...	4	...	1	6	...	1	...	...	11	15	10	...	...	...	55	24	69	18	8	187	38.4	20.2	164	3.0	1.3	3.8	0.9	0.4			
1891	18246	399	372	771	205	181	386	128	35	13	26	75	35	49	23	2	...	2	...	4	...	5	...	...	2	...	4	...	6	7	...	...	...	23	28	105	24	9	181	42.3	21.1	166	1.2	1.5	5.7	1.3	0.4			
1892	18431	382	363	745	206	156	363	115	69	22	11	66	31	36	11	2	1	4	3	2	...	3	1	...	3	...	1	...	5	5	28	1	...	64	29	46	14	12	208	38.3	20.6	189	3.4	1.5	2.5	0.7	0.6			
1893	18640	375	342	717	189	185	374	136	60	20	24	64	27	34	8	1	...	3	6	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	2	...	13	3	...	...	...	41	25	40	24	8	184	38.0	17.0	169	2.1	1.3	2.1	1.2	0.4			
1894	18849	376	342	718	192	134	326	122	51	13	16	47	27	38	10	2	...	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	16	2	...	10	52	22	53	25	13	209	40.0	20.5	191	2.3	1.2	2.9	1.3	0.7			
1895†	18223	378	360	738	197	177	374	147	57	13	20	60	28	33	14	2	...	6	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	1	7	...	...	...	45	19	52	25	10	194	40.0	18.7	168	2.3	1.0	2.8	1.3	0.5				
1896	18432	355	385	740	178	167	345	125	60	7	16	70	22	32	12	1	...	...	...	4	...	6	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	7	...	...	...	41	23	36	27	9	178	39.3	16.7	150	2.1	1.2	1.9	1.4	0.4			
1897	18641	387	344	731	147	166	313	110	27	7	32	66	23	37	11	...	...	6	1	...	...	9	3	...	1	...	1	...	3	8	...	...	4	41	23	36	27	9	178	39.3	16.7	150	2.1	1.2	1.9	1.4	0.4			

* Explosion of "fire damp" at Trimdon Grange Colliery, 68 killed.

† Incorporation of Low Spennymoor with the Spennymoor Urban District, with an area of 232 acres and a population of 1044.

